COLORADO MEDICAID ANNOUNCES COVERAGE FOR ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENT CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – April 2, 2012 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today a Medicaid program to cover Adults without Dependent Children (AwDC). This population has previously not been eligible for Medicaid. The program will be limited to 10,000 people due to budgetary constraints. The AwDC program is funded by a hospital provider fee and matching federal funds, and uses no general funds.

The AwDC program is designed for adults aged 19 to 64 who are *not* eligible for other Medicaid programs or Medicare. The program is capped at 10,000 clients whose income is approximately 10% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is about \$90 per month for a single adult.

"This program will help 10,000 very low-income Coloradans who did not have access to health insurance previously," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "For many that will benefit from the program, the only option they had before was to go to the emergency room to seek care. Having access to a primary care medical provider can improve outcomes while reducing unnecessary emergency room visits."

Clients in the AwDC program will receive the regular Medicaid benefit package. AwDC clients will be enrolled in the Medicaid <u>Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC)</u>. The ACC is a program which coordinates clients' care with dual goals of improving outcomes and containing costs.

Those interested in applying for the AwDC program can apply April 1-May 15 at their local county agency, by completing a paper application or online via Colorado.gov/PEAK. To ensure a fair selection process, the initial 10,000 clients will be determined through a randomized process that will allocate clients by region rather than a first-come first-served approach.

Eligible applicants not among the 10,000 selected, including those who apply after mid-May, will be placed on a statewide waitlist. Visit <u>Colorado.gov/hcpf/awdc</u> for more information about eligibility and the randomized selection process.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.